

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 34, 35, 37 and 38 without prejudice.

Please amend the claims as follows:

36. (Amended) The method of claim [10] 29, wherein the hydrophobically-modified polymers comprise poly(acrylamide).

Please add the following new claim:

49. (New) The method of claim 29, wherein the functional groups for crosslinking comprise chromium (III).